CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A printing device configured to perform steps comprising:

receiving, at a first module of said printing device, an original command that is intended to cause said printing device to perform an action indicated by said original command;

determining whether a translation module that implements logic for translating said original command is installed in said printing device;

if said translation module is not installed in said printing device, then sending data that comprises said original command directly from said first module to a second module of said printing device;

if said translation module is installed in said printing device, then performing steps comprising:

determining whether said original command, without translation, will cause said printing device to perform said action;

if said original command, without translation, will cause said printing device to perform said action, then sending said data to said second module; and

if said original command, without translation, will not cause said printing device to perform said action, then performing steps comprising:

invoking said logic of said translation module to translate said original command into one or more translated commands that will cause said printing device to perform said action; and

sending said one or more translated commands to said second module.

2. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein determining whether said translation module is installed in said printing device comprises determining whether a hardware module that implements said logic is plugged into an interface of said printing device.

3. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein determining whether said translation module is installed in said printing device comprises determining whether software that implements said logic is stored on a rewritable data storage device of said printing device.

4. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein said logic is implemented by one or more logical modules, and wherein the printing device is further configured to select said one or more logical modules from among a plurality of logical modules.

5. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein said logic is implemented by one or more logical modules, and wherein the printing device is further configured to perform steps comprising:

receiving, through an operation panel of said printing device, user input; and

based on said user input, selecting said one or more logical modules from among a plurality of logical modules.

6. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein said logic is implemented by one or more logical modules, and wherein the printing device is further configured to perform steps comprising:

receiving said data; and

based on said data, selecting said one or more logical modules from among a plurality of logical modules.

7. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein said logic is implemented by one or more logical modules, and wherein the printing device is further configured to perform steps comprising:

receiving said data;

determining, from said data, a source of said data; and

based on said source, selecting said one or more logical modules from among a plurality of logical modules.

8. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein said logic is implemented by one or more logical modules, and wherein the printing device is further configured to perform steps comprising:

receiving input that specifies a new logical module that is not one of said one or more logical modules;

in response to receiving said input, adding said new logical module to a plurality of logical modules; and

selecting said one or more logical modules from among said plurality of logical modules.

9. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein said logic, when invoked, performs steps comprising:

determining whether said original command is indicated in a table specified by said translation module; and

if said original command is contained in said table, then replacing said original command with one or more substitute commands that are indicated in one or more rows that indicate said original command.

10. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein said translated command comprises said original command and one or more additional commands.

11. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein said logic, when invoked, removes one or more parts of said original command that would cause said printing device to experience an error.

12. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein the printing device is further configured to perform steps comprising:

receiving one or more Internet Protocol (IP) packets that collectively indicate, in payload sections of said one or more IP packets, said data, wherein said data indicates said command but not a source of said one or more IP packets;

determining, from a header section of at least one of said one or more IP packets, a source of said IP packets; and

updating said data to indicate said source.

13. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein said original command indicates a first tray of said printing device, wherein said one or more translated commands indicate a second tray of said printing device, and wherein said one or more translated commands do not indicate said first tray.

14. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein said action is storing said data instead of printing said data.

15. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein said action is preventing said data from being printed unless a source of said data matches at least one of one or more specified sources.

16. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein said action is preventing said data from being printed unless a source of said data matches at least one of one or more specified sources, and wherein the printing device is further configured to perform steps comprising:

receiving a new specified source that is not one of said one or more specified sources; and

in response to receiving said new specified source, adding said new specified source to said one or more specified sources.

17. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein said action is printing, on a same page on which said data is printed, a pattern that becomes more perceptible to human eyes when said pattern is photocopied.

18. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein said logic is implemented by one or more logical modules, and wherein the printing device is further configured to indicate, through a display of said printing device, that said one or more logical modules can be selected.

19. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein said action is storing said data instead of printing said data, and wherein the printing device is further configured to perform steps comprising:

receiving, through an operation panel of said printing device, user input; and

if said user input matches a specified code, then printing data that has been stored instead of printed.

20. A method comprising:

receiving, at a first module of a printing device, an original command that is intended to cause said printing device to perform an action indicated by said original command;

determining whether a translation module that implements logic for translating said original command is installed in said printing device;

if said translation module is not installed in said printing device, then sending data that comprises said original command directly from said first module to a second module of said printing device;

if said translation module is installed in said printing device, then:

determining whether said original command, without translation, will cause said printing device to perform said action;

if said original command, without translation, will cause said printing device to perform said action, then sending said data directly from said first module to said second module; and

if said original command, without translation, will not cause said printing device to perform said action, then:

invoking said logic of said translation module to translate said original command into one or more translated commands that will cause said printing device to perform said action; and

sending said one or more translated commands to said second module.

21. A printing device configured to perform steps comprising:

receiving, at a first module of said printing device, an original command that is intended to cause said printing device to perform an action indicated by said original command;

determining whether a translation module that implements logic for translating said original command is installed in said printing device;

if said translation module is not installed in said printing device, then sending data that comprises said original command directly from said first module to a second module of said printing device;

if said translation module is installed in said printing device, then performing steps comprising:

invoking said logic of said translation module to translate said original command into one or more translated commands that will cause said printing device to perform said action; and

sending said one or more translated commands to said second module.

22. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for managing a network of two or more printers, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by one or more processors causes the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

receiving, at a first module of said printing device, an original command that is intended to cause said printing device to perform an action indicated by said original command;

determining whether a translation module that implements logic for translating said original command is installed in said printing device;

if said translation module is not installed in said printing device, then sending data that comprises said original command directly from said first module to a second module of said printing device;

if said translation module is installed in said printing device, then:

determining whether said original command, without translation, will cause said printing device to perform said action;

if said original command, without translation, will cause said printing device to perform said action, then sending said data directly from said first module to said second module; and

if said original command, without translation, will not cause said printing device to perform said action, then:

invoking said logic of said translation module to translate said original command into one or more translated commands that will cause said printing device to perform said action; and

sending said one or more translated commands to said second module.

23. A printing device comprising:

means for receiving, at a first module of said printing device, an original command that is intended to cause said printing device to perform an action indicated by said original command;

means for determining whether a translation module that implements logic for translating said original command is installed in said printing device;

means for sending data that comprises said original command directly from said first module to a second module of said printing device if said translation module is not installed in said printing device;

means for invoking, if said translation module is installed in said printing device, said logic of said translation module to translate said original command into one or more translated commands that will cause said printing device to perform said action; and

means for sending said one or more translated commands to said second module if said translation module is installed in said printing device.